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RECEIVED, BUREAU, 2200.

Congress Assaults the Council of National Defence.

The Council of National Defence, a body entitled to the highest praise for its successful labors to establish co-operation between the industrial and commercial communities and the Federal Government, is threatened with disruption, if not with destruction, by a paragraph in the food control bill now under debate in the Senate.

This paragraph would prohibit "any person connected with the Government" from selling to it anything in which he has an interest. The members of the Council are held to be "connected with the Government," and as they represent the great producers of materials needed by the United States it would be necessary, should this provision become effective, for them to resign from the Council, or to have the corporations with which they are identified refrain from accepting Government contracts.

If these business men quit the Council of National Defence the United States will lose the benefit of their expert and informed advice, which has already saved it millions of dollars in money and more valuable months in time.

If they remain in the Council and refrain from bidding on Government contracts the producing agencies open to Government work will be reduced in capacity in a measure that will paralyze our preparations for war, imperil our cause and expose us to the gravest dangers.

Nor is this all. The Council of National Defence, working with the executive department of the Government, has set up a coherent and efficient machine to carry out the tremendous commercial transactions made necessary by our entrance into the war. If the Council is smashed or seriously disturbed this delicately adjusted machine will be rendered useless and chaotic conditions will take the place of the orderly methods now in force. The paragraph that would render it impossible to maintain the Council in its present form and with its present functions makes no provision for the continuation of its work, and a new organization improvised to meet the needs of the country would be necessary.

The unwisdom of this assault on the Council of National Defence is obvious. The folly of eliminating the Council without supplying a substitute for it is apparent. The impudence of including an attack on it in a measure ostensibly designed to conserve the food supply of the nation is shocking. The assault on the Council of National Defence has no legitimate place in the measure under discussion. It should be eliminated from the bill, and if Congress deems it necessary to reform the Council the subject should be treated in an independent bill drawn to protect the interests of the country and not merely to hamper a single bureau of the Government.

Mr. Lever's Great Opportunity.

If a quantity of fresh fruit and vegetables which would fill thirty freight cars can be dried by a new process which preserves all their flavors and nutritive values and is thus reduced in bulk to one carload, why is this not done?

It is a question of a class which frets the mind. We are told with dismayful particularity of countless tons of fruits and vegetables which are either never sent to market, owing to price or transportation conditions, or if sent, spoil on the way. Yet we are assured there is a method effective and inexpensive for dehydrating, as the drying by the new process is called, those tons of food now wasted and all the additional tons that assurance of a market would bring forth.

One ship loaded with fruit and vegetables thus treated would carry to our troops on foreign service as much food as would a fleet of thirty ships loaded with food not so treated. The thirty ships would require expensive refrigeration, expensive coal for the freight; the one ship would require neither. Why, then, are not factories to perform this timely service being built in all parts of the country where fruits and vegetables rot so easily and cheaply marketed as or can be grown?

At intervals which seem, no doubt, more frequent than they are, Congress passes bills making generous appropriations for the Department of Agriculture. We are to have a new army of farm stock and crops; an army of veterinarians is to attack

cattle ticks; troops of young gentlemen fresh from academies of polite learning are to train the farmer how, when, where and why to hoe; rakes; battalions of sprightly young women are to deploy over our rural districts assuring farmers' wives that they never will be happy until they have taken social uplift.

How popular Mr. Lever would be in his next bill he would insert a modest authorization of funds to be used in investigating this possibility, to the end that the waste of valuable and desirable food in the form of fruits that now find no market because of their perishable nature might be made available to meet the needs of the world!

Learn What Your Red Number Is!

The instructions issued by the Provost Marshal General for the guidance of men liable to draft are simple and easy to follow. Registered men are told in brief to do exactly what their good sense and natural curiosity will move them to do.

They are to learn the addresses of the boards with which their cards are filed, inform themselves of the serial numbers assigned to them, arrange for the prompt receipt of mail, ask the officers whether they have been called to the colors, and if they have been, what they shall do.

This method of procedure eliminates many complications and will result in the slightest possible disturbance among men liable to service under the selective draft. It reduces the red tape to the minimum. No demands which cannot easily be met are made on the time or resources of any man. Nobody is asked to undergo a complicated process of notification and acceptance of summons or submit to tiresome preliminary formalities. The man whose name is on the list will act as he would in any important and interesting transaction affecting his life. The field in which he is to serve his country will be determined with as little dislocation of his daily habits as is possible.

It must be borne in mind that the responsibility in notification of selection for the national army is put on the individual. It is not assumed by the Government. In this the authorities have followed faithfully the spirit of the law, which is intended not to emphasize the power of the Government but to bring out the responsibility and duty of the citizen.

England's War Time Policies.

Mr. Sidney Wren, a well known London Journalist, contributes to the current *Atlantic Monthly* the first of two papers on "British Experience for Americans." Under such headings as "The Need for Personal Economy," "Taxes or Loans," "War Profits," and "Soaring Prices" he discusses phenomena of war time that have become familiar to the British and with which we in turn are destined to become conversant.

Mr. Wren points out that in the United Kingdom "foodstuffs are now, on an average, just twice as dear as in July, 1914, while bread has more than doubled. . . . Altogether the cost of living to British wage earners is officially computed to be from 60 to 70 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. A dollar in Great Britain goes only as far as 60 cents did three years ago."

A curious war time phenomenon which we have not as yet witnessed in this country was the increase in rents of working class dwellings which began in England early in 1914. It was clearly the result of extortion. Neither supply nor demand had at the moment been materially changed. Accordingly it was met by an unscientific, perhaps, but effective remedy. Parliament simply made it a penal offence to ask a higher rent for dwellings of certain classes than had been asked before the war. Thereupon extortion ceased.

The rise in the price of foodstuffs has been difficult to cope with. Indeed, according to Mr. Wren, it has not been checked, but "now reaches close upon 100 per cent. all round." So far as it has been regulated at all it has been by the acquisition by the Government of the sources of supply, and the fixing thereupon of both the wholesale and the retail prices of the product. "It has been demonstrated, alike in Germany and Great Britain," says Mr. Wren, "that this fixing of maximum prices is neither quite so futile as the economists have asserted, nor anything like so effective or advantageous as the man in the street believes. Alike in Germany and Great Britain it has been proved by repeated trials that any attempt to fix by law or by police action any maximum price short of what may be called the normal market value under the actual conditions of cost of production or supply and demand is promptly nullified by a withdrawal of supplies from market, and by secret sales to those customers who are able and willing to pay more than the legal maximum."

But it was found that where the Government controls production, and can insure a continuous supply, a maximum price can be enforced and the extortions of middlemen or distributors curbed. To effect this England has taken over control of its railways and ships. It controls all the mines, four mills and munition factories. The Government is the sole importer of wheat and sugar, the dominating importer of meat, rice and other foodstuffs, and controls imports of wool, leather, copper and other raw materials. "And wherever the Government controls the supply," says Mr. Wren, "it fixes in one way or another both the wholesale and the retail price of the commodity so as to limit the advantage that any dealer can take of the urgent needs of the consumer."

In the main, however, the British

have endeavored to meet the cost of living by raising wages by direct governmental action. At first by influence and exhortation, finally by act of Parliament, the Government has compelled employers in almost every branch of industry to raise wages. Railway and shipyard workers, every person in the great engineering industry, a million coal miners, two million women employed on war stores, all Government employees getting less than \$750 a year, school teachers, farm laborers, public service employees have all enjoyed the blessing of a "raise." What has been done in the case of the clerical class, the moderate salaried men, Mr. Wren does not explain. In all economic upheavals their case is far worse than that of the wage workers.

All that England has done falls short, of course, of maintaining the standard of life on quite as high a plane as before the waste of war came on to concentrate all the endeavors of the nation on destructive rather than on useful things. But a large measure of success has been obtained. Widespread suffering has been averted. Some classes are even more prosperous than before the war. It has taken three years to perfect the policy which England now believes to be successful. The United States has the record of that three years of experiment ready for its guidance.

House Numbers on the Avenues of Manhattan.

Tucked away in a corner of the *SUNDAY SUN* we observe a brief article dealing with the difficulty of finding street numbers on the avenues of Manhattan. A rough method yielding approximately accurate results has been based upon the fact that, generally speaking, the blocks on the avenues are 200 feet long with a number to every twenty feet of frontage. Therefore the number of the house wanted is divided by twenty except in such cases as Riverside Drive and Central Park West, with house numbers on only one side of the thoroughfare. Then there are ten numbers to the block and the house number is divided by ten.

In certain cases it is necessary to add to the result of the division the number of the street at which the avenue begins. The case of 240 Columbus avenue was cited. Dividing 240 by 20 gives 12; add 50, for Columbus avenue begins at Fifty-ninth street. The result is 71. And sure enough, 240 Columbus avenue is at Seventy-first street.

Now this is well as far as it goes, but it is possible to go much further. Dividing by 20 is sufficiently well done by dropping the last figure of the house number and dividing the remainder by 2. Therefore, when seeking to find approximately the nearest cross street to a number on a Manhattan avenue, drop the last figure of the number, divide the remainder by 2 and add the key number given in the following table:

Avenue D..... 3
Avenue C..... 3
Avenue B..... 3
Avenue A..... 3
First Avenue..... 2
Second Avenue..... 2
Third Avenue..... 9 or 10
Lexington Avenue..... 22
Fourth Avenue..... 8
Madison Avenue..... 26
Park Avenue..... 34 or 35
Fifth Avenue to Central Park, 18 or 19
Fifth Avenue above Mount Morris..... 24
Sixth Avenue..... 6
Seventh Avenue..... 12
Eighth Avenue..... 9
Ninth Avenue..... 13
Tenth Avenue..... 14
Eleventh Avenue..... 15
Twelfth Avenue..... 16
Columbus, Amsterdam and West End Avenues..... 59 or 60

Central Park West and Riverside Drive call for the division of the house number by 10 instead of by 20, and this is best done by simply dropping the last figure of the house number. Then to the remainder add, if the number is on Central Park West, 60; if the number is on Riverside Drive add 72.

Slantendicular Broadway has a rule all its own. Drop the last figure of the Broadway number and divide the remainder by 2—and then subtract 30 or 31. Some say 30, some say 31; some say this rule works with reasonable accuracy above Fourteenth street, and some say only above Twenty-third street. We are unable to pronounce upon the point. It is fairly important, for Broadway numbers give more trouble than any others except those on Fifth avenue.

The Maid of the Mist's Master.

A veteran skipper, hardy voyager of the most perilous fresh water sea in the world, laid aside his oilskins when Captain CARTER of the Maid of the Mist retired last week. How many brides and bridegrooms he brought up the black pool of the lower Niagara for a close up view of the titanic shower in his thirty-two years of service no one can say; maybe half a million. Where are the couples who sailed with him the first time he took the Maid around the magic circle, and does the gray mist of years become the ladies as well as the old shinning spray, Niagara's cosmetic gift to every pilgrim bride? Perhaps they have sons too old for the draft but just right for Plattsburg.

Niagara was only on the brink of modern efficiency when CARTER was entrusted with the Maid. The power companies were not diverting great pencils of water through the flumes. The park improvements were just getting under way and a small boy could wade out within a rod of the brink and get a crawfish. The untrammelled hack drivers, with silk hats hiding their horns, plundered the innocent

to their hearts' delight. Lamy and KATZ sold souvenirs—Indians seated in canoes in most painful attitudes, and transparent views of the Falls which may still be seen in the parlor windows of homes in Waterloo, Iowa. Niagara's most noted son, "Paper Collar Joe," then less than forty, came home every year to tell his old playmates how he worked the steamers as Sir JOHN GRAY, making almost as much in confidence games as an average Falls hack driver made at his profession.

But of course the lively diversions on the heights above him were denied to Captain CARTER. Day in, day out, he wheeled his steamer on her circling course; so near shalt thou go to the cataract and no further. Wet the tourists throughout, but don't drown them. There must have been a temptation for the skipper to creep in an inch or two nearer, the thing was so safe. Of course the circle was not always the same size. In CARTER's years the soft file of water ground back the stone wall of the Horseshoe Fall 150 feet. That, in a wall 1,200 feet wide, takes away more than an acre and a half of the upper bed. And as the cataract receded, the Maid pushed further up the gorge. A good man always finds more and more work to do.

The captain's task cannot have been monotonous. Always he had new people under the old water-proof; always a classic obvious jest to grin at, always a girl's laugh to hear above the roar of the impact. Ever there was the dark water going past, its swirl suggesting what might go on in its boiling depths, the giant trap for wreckage of ships and men.

It has been a long cruise for Captain CARTER and he doubtless will seek a change of scene. Possibly he will go to live at the top of the cliff and see the Falls from all points.

The 139 men indicted in San Francisco for anti-British plots engineered by officials of the Imperial German Government are diligent apostles of Prussian affection for the United States and declare the heartiest loyalty to the United States.

Chinese history to-day, with its revolutions, abdications, revolts and counter-revolutions, can be adequately recorded only by the motion picture camera.

Representative HICKS of Long Island is one of the thousands of Quakers whose patriotism and devotion to their country have never been questioned. It would be interesting to hear him utter an application for admission to the Society of Friends who lay under suspicion of seeking membership to avoid military duty.

Kansas gives up pie—Newspaper headline.

Thus do the descendants of sturdy New England prove weaklings unworthy of their ancestry.

The 112 men who were sentenced to the Chicago House of Correction for refusing to register under the selective draft law have been ostracized by prisoners confined for other offenses. It is obvious that the inmates of the institution recognize the particularly contemptible character of their new associates and do not intend to get bad names by associating with them on terms of equality.

Chairman SIMMONS of the Finance Committee explained that in view of the action of the Senate it would be necessary to rewrite the revenue bill almost in its entirety to make up for the loss of revenues upon which the Government had counted from the tax on distilled spirits—*Despatch*—Washington.

What a sordid thought to inject into the proceedings at the Capitol!

The practical joker who is sending notices to persons registered under the State military census ordering them to come with the military law to have an opportunity to study prison reform at close range when he is caught.

The *Staats-Zeitung* has at last found out why the United States went to war. This makes it unanimous.

THE SPIRIT OF 1810.

American Military Orders Relative to Another World Crisis.

To the Editor of THE SUN—Sir: The enclosed extract, which I read here on the Fourth of July, is a most interesting and valuable contribution to the study of the spirit of the militia in 1810 and how they regarded the world crisis of that day. Captain Hopkins was my grandfather. ARCHIBALD HOPKINS. WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass., July 7.

Extract from military order sent to Archibald Hopkins, Captain of Cavalry at Stockbridge, Mass., August 27, 1810: COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. FIRST BRIGADE, NEW DIVISION. BRIGADE ORDER.

The Brigadier-General cannot, on the present occasion, forbear suggesting to the officers and soldiers of the brigade, the very great importance and responsibility of the stations which they hold in community. In a free government like ours, when every soldier is a citizen, the defense and salvation of the country rest upon the exertions and patriotism of the militia. It becomes every Officer and Soldier to acquire himself thoroughly of the rank and title of freeman. A spirit of the strictest subordination, a cheerfulness and alacrity in the performance of every duty, a patriotic ambition to become thoroughly acquainted with the duties of a citizen, and a willingness to be obedient to the laws of the country, and a pride, not only to appear like Soldiers, but in reality to deserve the name, sought to characterize every Soldier. While the whole of the militia is convulsed to its centre, and the nations of the earth are dashing one against another, while every civilized nation on the globe is threatened with universal domination and the rights of neutrals and non-protection in the laws of nations, and the sanctity of treaties; and while the only Republic of the globe which is left amidst the wreck; where is the man who needs the aid of factory or persuasion to urge him to the performance of duty?

A Roman could weep that he had but one life to sacrifice for his country; and cannot an American exhibit a soul as patriotic as that of a Roman? Let it then be the ambition of every man to be so equipped and so versed in duty as to be ready, at a moment's warning, to face the field of battle, the enemies of his country.

DAVID TRACY, Brigadier-General. JAMES CURTIS, Brigade Major.

QUENCHING THE SPIRIT OF THE VOLUNTEER.

A Distinguished Author Suggests That the Government Repels Useful Men.

To the Editor of THE SUN—Sir: A much esteemed assistant secretary of a department in Washington is said to be kept busy politely turning away citizens who call to offer their services, without regard to compensation, to the Government during the war.

It may be that a certain proportion of these volunteers are men not obviously qualified to serve the Government, and certainly the busy official must have other work cut out for him than that involved in refusing an involuntary employment bureau. Does not the selection of the peculiar service they are fitted for "when called by Uncle Sam"? Why wait to be called? If they are all waiting until the baseball season is over, perhaps too the war will be over, and they will be among those who did not go.

I congratulate Mr. Hurley on having a son who has volunteered and who is actually in the service of Uncle Sam. I too have a son who sacrificed a good position to go into the Naval Reserve force, and he has just volunteered for any service that our Government sees fit to assign him to.

If McGraw is such a ferocious fighter as he would have us believe from his own account of his affair with the umpire Byron, why not use some of his talent for the country that did so much for him?

I am heartily sick of having ball players referred to as professional men, as athletes, &c., and while I have been a part of the game in this city since the time of the first professional baseball game, I have never been a professional ball player. I am a citizen, and I feel that I cannot escape the name as I did in times gone by, when ball players were indeed athletes and fighters of the right caliber.

WILLIAM G. MORAN.

NEW YORK, July 7.

PASSING THE BUCK.

The Washington Way of Making Some One Else Play the Game.

To the Editor of THE SUN—Sir: The spectacle of the Senate floundering around in an endeavor to enact a prohibition measure under the guise of an alleged food control bill as a war emergency was amusing were it not such a pathetic exhibition of the astuteness of the so-called statesmen in their puerile and cowardly attempt to shift the responsibility of their inaction to the shoulders of some one else; in other words, they "pass the buck" to the other fellow.

And then they have the colossal nerve to try to save their consciences by saying they are acting in accordance with the wishes of their constituents, when as a matter of fact they are doing nothing of the kind. On the contrary they are acting at the behest of the hydrophobic prohibition agitators, those self-appointed reformers for revenue only, who do not by any means represent the wishes of their constituents, when as a matter of fact they are doing nothing of the kind.

The inequity of the thing is evidenced by the fact that the Representatives in Congress of such States as Wyoming, North Dakota, Idaho, South Dakota, with a combined population (mostly rural) of less than three million, have an equal share in the law making power of the country, and by reason of their supposedly superior wisdom and virtue can assume to legislate for the people of such States as New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, with a population of over twenty-five million.

GEORGE S. ALDRICH.

NEWARK, N. J., July 7.

LUXURY FISH.

An Excursion Into the Possibilities of the Flabby Tribe.

To the Editor of THE SUN—Sir: The pompano is a delectable fish when at its best and properly cooked.

But has its New York champion in THE SUN ever eaten nicely cooked and dabs? Or broiled steaks from a young salmon fresh caught in the cold water of a swift flowing river, law making in the rifts below a noisy waterwheel and soon crisp fried in good butter—head and tail? Or Tahoe trout broiled within the half hour of being subdued after a line fight in the icy waters of that far spread (if I may so say) lake in the Sierran country? Or lean steaks of the swift swimming barracuda fried in butter and cracker crumbs? Or the flesh of the big, stout hearted albacore? Canned salmon is to fresh salmon as wilted lettuce leaves are to crisp, succulent Spanish lettuce in a delicious salad. And fresh Spanish mackerel, when running in domestic schools, biting lively in clear, uncontaminated ocean water, is not a food fish to be sneered at.

But smelt and codfish and rock cod and bass and flounder and halibut and "sich," they are merely filling food, not appetizing, meat watering nourishment. They are to be cooked in domestic schools, cold, poorly boiled potatoes are to little new potatoes served hot in cream gravy, as sugary rice and juicy grapes with finely wrinkled edible skins are to a hard, fuzzy long shipment peach, as salmon berries are to ordinary fruit and berries, when running in domestic schools, biting lively in clear, uncontaminated ocean water, is not a food fish to be sneered at.

Say, have you ever eaten sand dabs, or had real salmon steaks, or eaten crisp little mountain trout, all fresh from the clearest waters of Acadia Rice? PERTH AMBOY, N. J., July 7.

THE SUFFRAGE PICKETS.

An Anti Pictures That Element as a Peril at the Ballot Box.

To the Editor of THE SUN—Sir: Your correspondent "M. M." has regrettably states that "the cause of suffrage is losing some friends because of the antics of a few of its exponents in Washington," and further asserts that where "one suffragist is flaunting belligerent banners" one thousand are "engaged in good steady work." I am sorry to mention, and because of this virtuous barrage of demand for the vote should be granted in November, "first, as an act of simple justice." How can even a suffragist be so blind as this to the true state of affairs? She must know, for it is frankly admitted by her leader, Mrs. C. C. Carr, that only a minority of the women of the country, less than 10 per cent., demand the franchise. How could it be "an act of simple justice" to force it upon a large and unwilling or indifferent majority? Your correspondent asks for the franchise, in the second place, as "a great constructive movement." They are to take other fish mentioned in the direction of good government." On what does she found this assertion? Certainly not on the history of equal suffrage countries and States. The equal laws in equal suffrage States originated, every one of them, in male suffrage States, and the conditions in Delaware, San Francisco and Chicago are described by suffragists themselves as deplorable.

Your correspondent then caps the climax by asking for the franchise as "a generous and manly recognition of the work" the suffragists, of course are doing so well "side by side" with men. What "generous and manly recognition" is to be offered to anti-suffragists, who are, in much larger numbers, engaged in the good works of the day? Is their reward to be the vote forced upon them against their will? The suffrage point of view is that the franchise is to be given to women whose wishes should be taken into consideration, and that they are the only women engaged in good works, in fact that they are the only women who count in any way, in quite in line with the rest of their selfish and shallow fellow citizens.

It does not seem possible, though, that the men of this country, even though they may have no respect for the will of the majority, can be willing to put political power in the hands of those backing such a policy as that of the Woman's party and its pickets, who would be of all women, the most eager and energetic in the use of it. The serious minded suffragists cannot control this branch of their party now. How do they expect to do it if they should gain the franchise? They are laying out a busy life for themselves in planning to keep in order their various affairs, the suffragists, for instance, W. W.'s and Mormons. It is so naive to imagine that these people are working for suffrage for the sake of suffrage. UTICA, July 7. M. A. M.

ARE BALL PLAYERS HEROES?

If So, Why Does Hank Gowdy Shine Alone as a Volunteer?

To the Editor of THE SUN—Sir: I thoroughly agree with the sentiment expressed by Mr. John G. Hurley in his letter in THE SUN of June 30. There are, if I am correct, in the two big leagues approximately 400 ball players, supposedly trained athletes. Out of this number there is only one, Gowdy of the Boston National League team, who has actually gone into the service of Uncle Sam; and baseball is our national game. I also recall the denial of Maranville that he had enlisted; also his statement that he is ready when called; I also remember reading articles by various of these athletes in which they set forth their selection of the peculiar service they are fitted for "when called by Uncle Sam." Why wait to be called? If they are all waiting until the baseball season is over, perhaps too the war will be over, and they will be among those who did not go.

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